

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

Claims 26-48 (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) ~~A method of wireless picture messaging system messaging using visual image data in a wireless image communication system, the method comprising in which a picture is sent from a message originator having a telephone number to a message recipient having a wireless portable communication device, comprising:~~

~~—— receiving a message associated with a call from a calling party to a specified called party having a wireless portable communication device adapted to receive caller identifying information, the message including visual image data;~~

~~—— storing the message in a memory; and~~

~~—— forwarding the message to the wireless portable communication device along with a unique identifier associated with the wireless portable communication device.~~

a message center;

a picture message input device for use by the message originator for generating a message including a picture to be transmitted to the message center from a message originator;

a receiver operably coupled to the message center for receiving and storing in a memory both message originator information provided automatically by a

communications network as the caller ID identifying the telephone number of the message originator, and a picture obtained from the message originator with the caller ID;
a wireless portable communication device for receiving wireless signals from the message center; and,
a transmitter for wirelessly transmitting the stored caller ID and the stored picture from the message center to the wireless portable communication device.

50. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ system according to claim 49, wherein the ~~visual image data~~ picture includes at least one of:

iconographic image data;

logo image data;

photographic image data;

video image data;

~~facsimile image data;~~

image data representative of a calling party; and

other graphic image data.

51. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ system according to claim 49, wherein the ~~message is~~ picture message input device includes a video telephone and the message includes a video telephone message, and wherein the ~~visual image data~~ picture includes video image data.

52. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ system according to claim 49, wherein the ~~message is received between ring signals~~ picture message input device includes a personal computer.

53. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ system according to claim 49, wherein the ~~visual image data is provided by the calling party~~ message is encoded and wherein the wireless portable communication device includes a decoder for decoding the encoded message.

54. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ system according to claim 49, wherein the ~~visual image~~ message includes optional data ~~is provided automatically by a telephone network~~.

55. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ system according to claim 49, further comprising at least one of:

a compression algorithm for compressing at least part of the message prior to storage in the memory; and

a compression algorithm for compressing at least part of the message prior to forwarding the message transmission to the wireless portable communication device.

56. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ system according to claim 49, ~~further comprising:~~

~~—receiving wherein the caller ID includes~~ caller identifying data associated with the message.

57. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ system according to claim 56, wherein forwarding the message comprises:

—— ~~forwarding the transmitter that wirelessly transmits the caller ID and the picture is operably connected to transmit the message picture and caller ID~~ based on the caller identifying data.

58. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ system according to claim 49, ~~wherein forwarding the message comprises~~ and further including:

—— ~~an encryption algorithm for encrypting the message picture, to form an encrypted message;~~ and wherein the transmitter transmits

—— ~~forwarding the encrypted message picture~~ to the wireless portable communication device.

59. (Cancel)

60. (Cancel)

61. (Cancel)

62. (Cancel)

63. (Cancel)

64. (Cancel)

65. (Cancel)

66. (Cancel)

67. (Cancel)

68. (Cancel)

69. (Cancel)

70. (Cancel)

71. (Currently amended) ~~A wireless image communication system comprising:~~

~~——a wireless communication network; and~~

~~——a message center device, operably coupled to the wireless communication network, for receiving a message associated with a call from a calling party to a specified called party having a wireless portable communication device adapted to receive caller identifying information, storing the message in a memory, and subsequently forwarding~~

~~the message to the wireless portable communication device over the wireless communication network along with a unique identifier associated with the wireless communication device, wherein the message includes visual image data.~~

A wireless picture messaging system in which a picture is sent from a message originator having a telephone number to a message recipient having a wireless portable communication device, comprising:

a message center;

a picture message input device for use by the message originator for generating a message including a picture to be transmitted to the message center from the message originator;

a receiver coupled to the message center for receiving and storing in a memory both message originator information provided automatically by a communications network as the caller ID identifying the telephone number of the message originator, and a picture obtained from the message originator with the caller ID;

a wireless portable communication device for receiving wireless signals from the message center; and

a transmitter for wirelessly transmitting the stored caller ID and the stored picture from the message center to the wireless portable communication device.

72. (Cancel)

73. (Cancel)

74. (Currently amended) A ~~communication~~ wireless picture messaging system according to claim ~~71~~ 49, wherein the ~~message is received between ring signals~~ memory comprises a hard disk drive.

75. (Currently amended) A ~~communication~~ wireless picture messaging system according to claim ~~71~~ 49, wherein the ~~visual image data~~ picture is ~~provided by the calling party~~ stored at the message center for later retrieval by the message recipient.

76. (Cancel)

77. (Currently amended) A ~~communication~~ wireless picture messaging system according to claim ~~71~~ 49, wherein the ~~message center device is operable to compress~~ at least a part of the message is compressed prior to at least one of (a) storing the message in the memory and (b) forwarding the message.

78. (Cancel)

79. (Cancel)

80. (Cancel)

81. (Currently amended) A ~~communication~~ wireless picture messaging system according to claim ~~71~~ 49, wherein the wireless communication network ~~comprises~~ includes at least one of:

- ~~—— a paging system;~~
- a cellular telephone system;
- a wireless communication system; and
- a radio telephone system.

82. (Currently amended) A ~~communication~~ wireless picture messaging system according to claim ~~71~~ 49, wherein the message center device includes one of:

- a telephone answering ~~device~~ system;
- a video telephone answering ~~device~~ system;
- a ~~personal~~ computer ~~device~~;
- ~~—— a facsimile device;~~
- a voice messaging ~~device~~ system; and
- a video messaging ~~device~~ system.

83. (Cancel)

84. (Cancel)

85. (Cancel)

86. (Cancel)

87. (Cancel)

88. (Cancel)

89. (Cancel)

90. (Cancel)

91. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 71, wherein the picture includes at least one of:

iconographic image data;

logo image data;

photographic image data;

video image data;

image data representative of a calling party; and

other graphic image data.

92. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 71, wherein the picture message input device includes a video telephone and the message includes a video telephone message, and wherein the picture includes video image data.

93. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 71, wherein the picture message input device includes a personal computer.

94. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 71, wherein at least part of the message is encoded and wherein the wireless portable communication device includes a decoder for decoding the encoded message.

95. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 71, wherein the message includes optional data.

96. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 71, further comprising at least one of:

a compression algorithm for compressing at least part of the message prior to storage in the memory; and

a compression algorithm for compressing at least part of the message prior to forwarding the message transmission to the wireless portable communication device.

97. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 71, wherein the caller ID includes caller identifying data associated with the message.

98. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 97, wherein the transmitter that wirelessly transmits the caller ID and the picture is operably connected to transmit the picture and caller ID based on the caller identifying data.

99. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 71, wherein the transmitter for wirelessly transmitting the caller ID and picture is operably connected to an encryption algorithm for encrypting the picture, and wherein the transmitter transmits the encrypted picture to the wireless portable communication device.

100. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 49, wherein the memory comprises a hard disk drive.

101. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 49, wherein the picture is stored at the message center for later retrieval by the message recipient.

102. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 49, wherein the message is compressed prior to at least one of (a) storing the message in the memory and (b) forwarding the message.

103. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 49, wherein the wireless picture messaging system includes a wireless communications network and wherein the wireless communication network includes at least one of:

- a cellular telephone system;
- a wireless communication system; and
- a radio telephone system.

104. (New) A wireless picture messaging system according to claim 49, wherein the message center includes one of:

- a telephone answering system;
- a video telephone answering system;
- a computer;
- a voice messaging system; and
- a video messaging system.